



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>


1076431 - R8 SDMS

Ref: 8EPR-SR

December 26, 2007

Mr. Robert J. DeMalo
Senior Vice President, Laboratory Services
EMSL Analytical, Inc.
107 Haddon Avenue
Westmont, NJ 08108

Re: Libby Asbestos Superfund Site,
Operable Unit 3

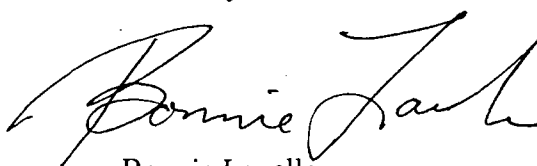
Dear Mr. DeMalo:

Thank you for your December 19, 2007 letter that provided additional information concerning the EMSL laboratory located Beltsville, MD. EMSL has proposed to send samples of tree bark collected under the "Phase I Sampling and Analysis Plan for Operable Unit 3, Libby Asbestos Superfund Site" (Phase I SAP) to the Beltsville, MD laboratory for asbestos analysis by senior analysts using transmission electron microscopy (TEM), following the specific requirements of the Phase I SAP.

The information provided in your letter indicates that the analysts have successfully completed training specific to the identification of Libby amphibole asbestos and meet the requirements described in Section 6 of the Phase I SAP. Therefore, on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 (EPA), I approve the proposal to send the tree bark samples to the Beltsville, MD laboratory for analysis. I understand that sample preparation, data entry, quality assurance and reporting will occur at the EMSL laboratory located in Westmont, NJ.

As we have discussed, EPA will proceed with plans to conduct an audit of the EMSL laboratory located in Beltsville, MD. We expect to complete the audit in the first quarter of 2008. If you have any questions related to this approval or the Operable Unit 3 project, please don't hesitate to call me at (303)312-6579.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bonnie Lavelle".

Bonnie Lavelle
Remedial Project Manager
Libby Asbestos Superfund Site
Operable Unit 3

cc: Robert Marriam, Remedium
Ed Cahill, EMSL Analytical, Inc.
Joe Centifonti, EMSL Analytical, Inc.
Charles LaCerra, EMSL, Analytical, Inc.

